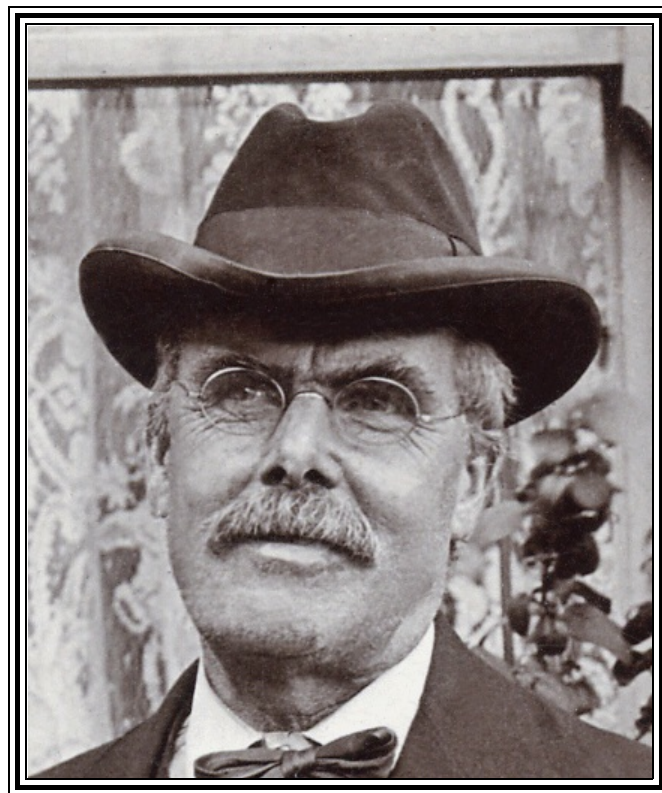


An Illustrated Transcription
Joseph Hingley's
Diary of 1911



Joseph Hingley was born in Cradley, England, in 1850 and emigrated to the United States in 1873. Thirty-eight years later, at age 61, he traveled from Portland, Oregon, back to his place of birth. What follows is a transcription of the diary he kept of his Journey.

James Hingley Hicks, Summer, 2009
Great-Grandson of Joseph Hingley

A Guide to Names Mentioned in the Diary

Addie

Adelaide Horton (b. 1877), Joseph's niece, daughter of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton; visited in Cleveland; age 34 in 1911

Albert

Albert Hingley (b. 1879), Joseph's nephew, son of brother David Hingley; visited in Cradley; age 32 in 1911

Alice

Alice Horton (b. 1869), Joseph's niece, daughter of Joseph's sister Hannah Hingley Horton, visited in Cradley; age 42 in 1911.

Alice

Alice Coleman, visited in Bexhill-on-Sea, niece, daughter of wife's sister Ellen (b. 1884), age 27 in 1911. Only known photograph.



Alice Hingley

Joseph's niece (1881-1947), daughter of his brother David Hingley, visited in Cradley; age 30 in 1911, married to Herbert Head

Ann

Ann Hingley (b. 1850), first cousin of Joseph Hingley, daughter of James Hingley (b. 1810), his Uncle

Ann

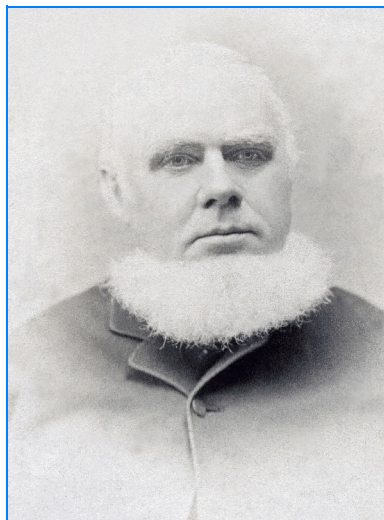
Ann Asbury (b. 1842), whom Joseph visits in Knowle, Warwickshire, known as "your Aunt Ann." She is an older sister to Joseph's wife, Mary Edwards Asbury

Beleham

letter written to in London; relationship unknown

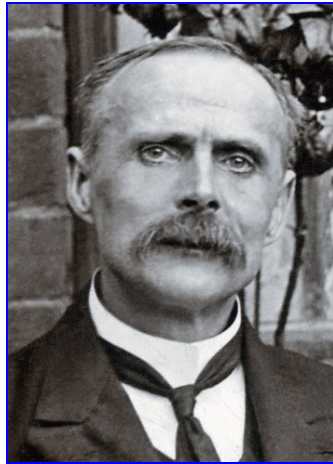
Ben

Benjamin Hingley (1833-1891), Joseph's older brother, died 1891



Ben

Ben Hingley (b. 1864), Joseph's nephew, son of his brother Benjamin Hingley; age 47 in 1911; Joseph's host while in Cradley



Chidson

visited in London, mentioned often, relationship unknown

David

David Hingley (b. 1834), Joseph's deceased elder brother friend, Joseph met in Cradley

David Priest

Eliza

Eliza Hingley (b. 1843), Joseph's sister, age 68 in 1911; visited in Cradley



Eliza (not named)

Eliza Horton (b. 1860), Joseph's niece, daughter of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton, visited in Cleveland, Ohio. Only photo of the brother and three sisters living there in 1911



Ellen

Ellen Horton (b. 1866), Joseph's niece, daughter of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton, visited in Cradley; age 45 in 1911

Esther

Esther Justine Haag (1888-1964), future wife of Howard Asbury Hingley, our Grandfather, in Portland. Mentioned in a letter home Joseph says of our Grandmother:

"I am glad that Esther is getting along alright. I should have sent her a postal but Howard never mentioned her full name and for the life of me I cannot remember it but tell her hello for me and remember me to Noah."



George
Hannah

George Blasser, husband of Joseph's daughter May
Hannah Hingley Horton (1840-1911), Joseph's older sister; age 71 in 1911; in Cradley. Hannah would die in Cradley while he was visiting.



Harry Coleman

Met in Bexhill-on-Sea. Brother-in-law, husband of wife Mary's sister

Hawkins

Helen

Helen Horton

Helen

Henry

Ellen. Letter posted to while in Cradley; b. 1857, age 54 in 1911

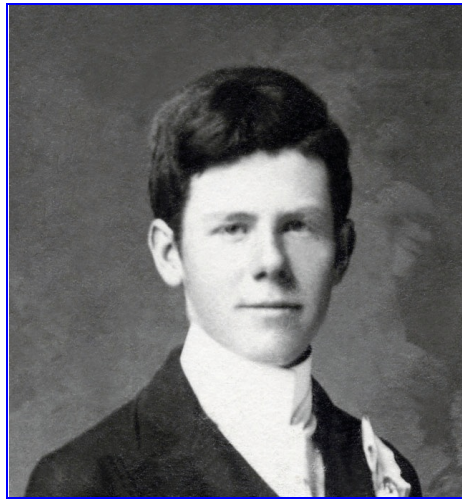
relationship unknown

mentioned often, visited in London; sometimes referred to as "your Aunt Helen." Best guess is that this is a sister of his wife, Mary Edwards Asbury (if this is the case, aka Ellen).

(see Ellen, above)

in Bexhill-on-Sea, relationship unknown, unless this is Ellen, Joseph's wife's sister

Henry William Hingley (1884-1960), Joseph's son in 1911, age 27, living in Portland, Oregon with his father Joseph



Henry

Howard

Henry Hingley (b. 1849), in Cradley, brother of Joseph; died 1872

Howard Asbury Hingley (1886-1976), in 1911 age 25, living in Portland, Oregon with his father Joseph; our Grandfather



Hubert

Hubert Bright Hingley (1876-1952), Joseph's son, in 1911 age 35, living in Portland, Oregon with his father Joseph



Jack

Joseph travels with "Jack" to Hunnington

Jarvis

visited in Webb City, Missouri; letters written to; relationship unknown

Jennie

Jane Horton (born abt 1871), Joseph's niece, daughter of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton; visited in Cleveland; age 40 in 1911

Joe Hingley

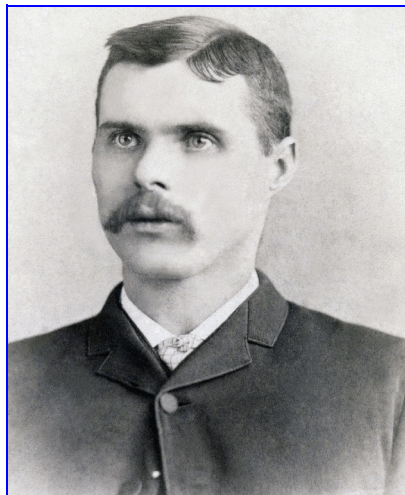
Joseph's nephew (b. 1867), son of his brother David Hingley (b. 1834)

Joe

Joe Hingley (b. 1870), Joseph's nephew, son of his brother Henry Hingley; age 41 in 1911; mother Elizabeth not named but visited

John Hingley

Joseph's nephew, son of his brother David Hingley (1834-); visited in Chicago. His children at home were Ben, Sam, Walter, and Rose



John Horton

Joseph's nephew (born 1865), son of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton; visited in Cleveland; in 1911 age 46

John P.

friend met by Joseph in Cradley

Lizzie

Myra Hingley's (b. 1846) daughter, Joseph's niece, in Cradley.

Lottie

Lottie Horton (b. 1873), Joseph's niece, daughter of his sister Hannah Hingley Horton, visited in Cradley; age 38 in 1911

Maude

Ellen Maude Hingley (1878-1962), Joseph's daughter; in 1911 age 33, living in Portland, Oregon with her father. He took pictures of his family with him; the one receiving the most attention was that of Maude with her extraordinary hair.



May

Annie Mabel Hingley Blasser (1875-1954), Joseph's daughter, in 1911 age 36, living in Portland, Oregon



May

Ellen Mabel Coleman, in Bexhill-on-Sea, niece through Joseph's wife's sister, Ellen. Only known photograph; b. 1886, age 25 in 1911



Mephram

Mr. Mephram to meet Joseph in London with Helen; Helen's husband? in Portland, relationship unknown

Middlekauf

relationship unknown

Mrs. Franklin

Myra

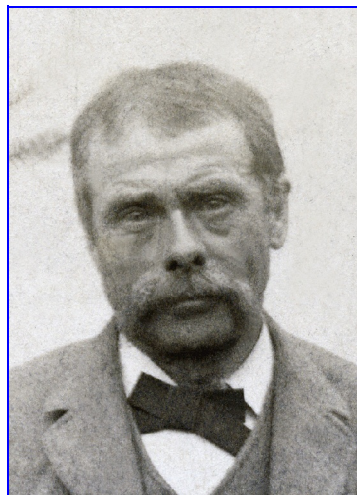
Myra Hingley (b. 1846), Joseph's older sister, age 65 in 1911, visited in Cradley.

Myra

Myra Head (b. 1860), Joseph's niece, daughter of sister Sarah Hingley Head (b. 1836); age 51 in 1911

Noah

Noah Hingley (1841-1929), Joseph's brother in Portland, Oregon



Rechab Hingley

Joseph's first cousin (b. 1844), son of his uncle, Noah Hingley; met in Cradley

Sammy Cooper

friend met by Joseph in Cradley; wished to be remembered to Noah Hingley, Joseph's brother

Samuel Clift

husband of Myra Head (daughter of Joseph's sister, Sarah Head)

Sarah

Sarah Hingley Head (1836-1911), Joseph's older sister, age 75 in 1911, visited in Cradley



Sergeant

letter written to in London; relationship unknown

Sophia

Sophia Hingley (b. 1877), Joseph's niece, daughter of his brother David Hingley

Tilden

letter sent to Portland; relationship unknown

Walter Homer

mentioned only in the context of "having left Hannah" in 1911; her second husband not there at her death

Note to Reader

Joseph Hingley was a blacksmith born in Cradley in 1850 who emigrated to the United States in 1873 with his older brother, **Noah**, and younger brother, **Simeon**. Thirty-eight years later in 1911 he returned to Cradley to visit his surviving sisters and his nieces and nephews; he recorded his daily experiences in a Diary which has remained for nearly 100 years with the family he established in Oregon.

Joseph Hingley was the ninth of ten children of **Samuel** and **Eliza Walker Hingley**. The history of the family in Cradley is multi-generational, going as far back historically as we can trace, and in all instances the Hingleys were nailers of one kind or another. The larger story of Joseph is one of successful emigration from the harsh conditions of the iron-working industry in mid-19th century Cradley and the Black Country. But the story is also one of family. In the hiatus since his departure, his mother and two of his older brothers (**Benjamin** and **David**) had died. Two of his brothers, **Noah** and **Simeon**, had emigrated, but sisters **Sarah Head**, **Hannah Horton**, **Eliza**, and **Myra** were still there, although Hannah, sadly, would die during his visit.

The Diary here published contains only the *Cradley* portion of Joseph's travels. Appropriate to add, we think, is that in his journey across the United States he describes also visits with those children of his siblings who traveled behind him: in Chicago, Illinois he stays with **John Hingley** (son of brother Samuel) and his family, and in Cleveland, Ohio, he finds most of sister Hannah Horton's children living in proximity. On his return to the USA he locates his first cousin, **Saul Hingley** (son of his Uncle Noah), in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To continue the theme of emigration within the family, but not mentioned in the Diary, is that the younger brother with whom he migrated first to the Pacific Coast, Simeon, continued on to Brunswick, Australia, where he was joined somewhat later by one of Joseph's sister Sarah's children, **George Head**.

The illustrations contained in the Diary come almost exclusively from postcards and pictures Joseph Hingley acquired while in Cradley in 1911.

The Diary

The Departure for England

Wednesday, May 17

The longed for day has arrived. Had a very light breakfast and we start from New York with great cheering and blowing of the whistle. The ship has its full capacity.¹ One



RMS Campania, the ship Joseph Hingley takes to England.

o'clock took dinner on the ship which was very good and I feel fine and are out of sight of land and the sea is like a sheet of glass and we are rolling along at a pretty good gait. The accommodation is very good. There is every convenience all the same on land. Sent letters to Ellen, Alice Hingley² and Maude.

May 17-23 (at sea for six days)

¹ Joseph ticketed with the Cunard Line, and was aboard the *S.S. Campania*.

² Alice Hingley could be his brother David's daughter. The "Hingley" part is confusing: she was married to Herbert Head in 1905. Another "Alice" in family is his sister Hannah's daughter, but her maiden name would be Horton (married name Sidaway). Perhaps the "Hingley" designation is to distinguish between the two Alices.

Wednesday, May 24

Arrived at Liverpool at 10 A.M. Board train at 12:40 bound for Wolverhampton then to Stourbridge. Change to Cradley. Sent telegram to Myra³ which cost 8 pence. Took lunch glass milk & Black Current tart for which I paid 4 pence and the funniest cars you ever see. But oh my, the Beauty around Liverpool as we get into sight of Land I could not help but remark on the Scenery so English. You know I thought of Oregon the grass & trees so Beautifully green. I thought that Liverpool would be a terrible place to get around in but the people are quiet and orderly...of course..there is quite a number of Police. I certainly



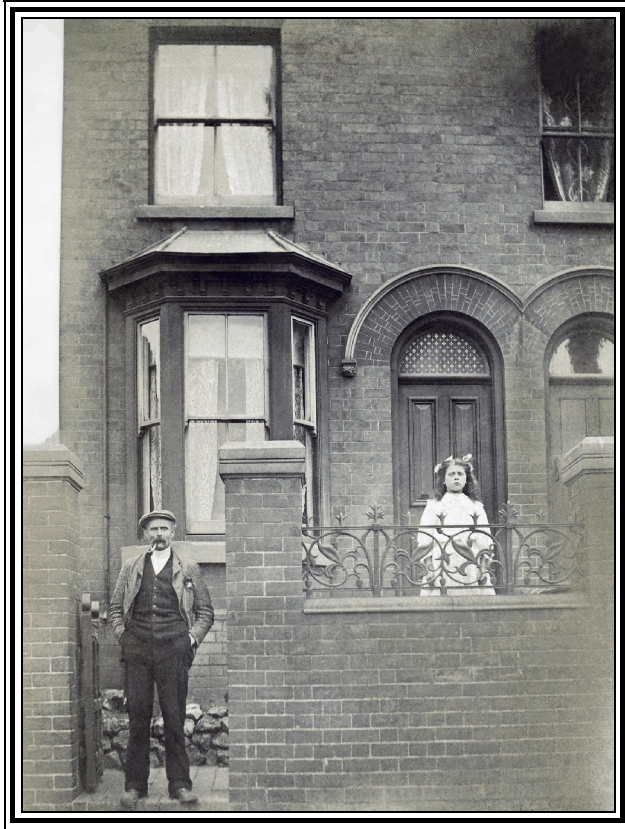
View from New Pool toward **Cradley** town at left, Homer Hill at right, c. 1911.

love the sight of Old England on my First Impression. You have stood on Council Crest & seen the Beauty of the Tualatin Valley but the scenery between Liverpool & Chester is grand. We see Chester Cathedral at a little distance. I cannot describe the scenery. I may be somewhat prejudiced but Believe me my eyes have seen. We are now in Wrexham.

I arrived at Cradley Myra was there to meet me and a Time we had. Walked Home

³ Joseph's older sister Myra, born 1846, hence 65 years old. Both he and his brother Simeon named daughters after Myra.

and they made me very comfortable. Took a walk in the Evening and found our Ben's son Ben⁴ and he is all right he has a nice home & I do not know what I shall do for they expect me



Ben Hingley, Joseph's nephew, and his daughter, **Maggie**, *Gladstone Villa*, Furlong Lane, Cradley. Where Joseph stayed while in Cradley.



Joseph Hingley's host in Cradley: his nephew **Ben**, his wife, **Lucy**, and his daughter, **Maggie**.

to stay with them so & so long. But I visited some of the scenes of my Childhood but Oh, What a Change.

Thursday, May 25

The next morning I went for Mail but disappointed. Found our Hannah⁵ in a very poor state of health. Went to see Sarah⁶ & Hannah's Daughter Eliza but very poor. Went

⁴ "Our Ben" is Joseph's much older brother, Benjamin Hingley, born 1833 and died 1891. The "Ben" Joseph is staying with is his nephew, son of brother Benjamin, age 47 in 1911.

⁵ Hannah, Joseph's sister, born 1840, now 71, would die during his visit.

⁶ Sarah, born 1836, is a sister, age 75. Eliza is one of Hannah's daughters.

to see Lottie⁷ another daughter who was gone to Birmingham and find that Walter Homer⁸ has left Hannah & do not know where he is. Lottie is doing very well and very busy in their little fruit store and is quite ambitious. Went to see them make anchors. My they Work hard.



Anchor chain making at N. Hingley works, Netherton. One of the most well-known photographs of chain making at the Noah Hingley works in Netherton. This is Ben Hodgetts' large cable Titanic chain gang (left to right): Ben Woodhouse, George Bridgwater, Albert Hodgetts, Theophilus Dunn, Ben Hodgetts. (Nigel Brown)

They drink lots of Beer. I am now near Old Hill⁹. Lottie's come back from Birmingham 2 o'clock and such a girl. She is a Big stout Woman and very Jolly. She is all Business. Had Ham & eggs & Beer for Dinner as I went round I tried to find Alice Hingley¹⁰ but had the hardest time. I found her at last living near Ben Hingley & Married 3 years & Albert married with 3 children. In the evening Ben took me around see my Old Chums and the short cuts I remembered so well. Went to Homer Hill & then to the Liberal Club which was built by Subscription & a very nice thing to keep men out of the Public House. Come across Rechab

⁷ Lottie Horton is daughter of Hannah Hingley Horton (Joseph Hingley's sister), owner of a fruit store in Cradley or Cradley Heath.

⁸ Walter Homer is Hannah's second husband. David Horton, Hannah's first husband, was alive in 1891 (English Census). We do not know when he died.

⁹ Old Hill, just to the north of Cradley Heath. Joseph is doing a bit of walking his first day.

¹⁰ Alice and Albert are Joseph's brother David Hingley's children.



Postcard of the **Liberal Club** at its opening, about a month before Joseph Hingley arrived.

Hingley.¹¹ Home at 10 talked till 11 went to bed and slept like a log.

Friday, May 26



Chain-making in Cradley. Joseph notes that the women work just like the men.

Feel fine. Took a walk after mail but disappointed. The Postal System seems to me is disgusting. Went to see them make chain. Gave a few small coins to them. My it looks tough

¹¹ Rechab would be Joseph's first cousin, son of his uncle, Noah Hingley.

to see how they work. Went to Lottie then to Old Hill Post Office but no letters. Came back to Lottie's. Lay down on Lounge & had a rest. Had a pork pie for dinner. Strolled home to Ben's but I am feeling tired but go out in the Evening. It seems there is so many to and see; in the way of scenery there is not much to see only Old Reminiscences but Ben took me



High Street, Cradley, 1911.

through all the nooks and short cuts that were very familiar in my Youth. Conditions are a great deal better than they was but Oh My they are behind the times.

Saturday, May 27

Rec'd a Postcard from Chidson¹² directing me how to visit him for a day. I went to visit the Anvil Yard and Women were working like the Men. Uncle Jim's¹³ Home but it is all changed. The People seem to be glad to think someone had come & takes an interest in their welfare. Went to see Hannah & as many of the Old Timers. Came across David Priest¹⁴ & John P, & Sammy Cooper wished to be remembered to Noah. All the Old Folks get Pensions. At night went to Five Ways and everything seemed to be as of Old, the Stalls & Cheap Jack & Roast Potatoes all as it was 38 years ago.

¹² Chidson lives in London—we have not been able to establish the nature of the friendship/relationship with Joseph.

¹³ James Hingley's home, Joseph Hingley's uncle.

¹⁴ In *Kelly's Directory* of 1868, a David Priest is listed as a grocer, but this would be over 40 years later.

Sunday, May 28

Up at 8 o'clock breakfast. Went to Lottie's & show her a letter was going to send to Helen.¹⁵ Yesterday answered Chidson Post Card. Today sent a letter to Helen telling her the conditions here concerning their mother. Went to Cradley Church. Everything seems



St. Peter's Church, Cradley, where Joseph is unsuccessful in finding either his Mother or Brother's grave.



about the same only they are drifting to High Church. I strolled round the Church Yard but Mother's Grave was not to be seen. I could not locate our David's¹⁶ grave but will before I go.

¹⁵ Who is Helen? If this person is Ellen, she will be Joseph's niece, one Hannah's children.

¹⁶ Joseph Hingley's brother, David Hingley, born 1834, died in 1900.

But I am anxious for Letters from Home and from Helen. I call on some of the Folks as I go from one Place to another and they don't seem to know how to do enough for me. The interesting walk I took was when Ben took me on the Turnpike road & Colley Gate and around Colman Hill¹⁷ where I spent many Happy Hours in my courting Days and everything



Drew's Holloway and Colman Hill, places of Joseph Hingley's courting days.

seemed so familiar. Ben's wife does all she can to make me comfortable. She certainly is a good Mother to his girl and makes him a good Wife. The weather seems to be very warm. I have seen no rain since I left Denver but the Country Roads make me very tired but have rested well this afternoon. Went to Low Church Anniversary met Sophia Alice¹⁸ youngest sister Myra brought me a letter from May¹⁹ after me writing to her Mother Helen why in the name of common sense didn't she answer my Letter & tell me something. I felt cross. If I did not know their simplicity I believe I should change my plans.

Monday, May 29

¹⁷ Coleman Hill—place of Joseph's courtship with Mary Edwards Asbury, his wife.

¹⁸ Joseph's nieces, brother David Hingley's daughters.

¹⁹ May appears here to be the daughter of Helen who lives in London of whom we cannot a relationship.



Furlong Lane, Cradley, 1911, photographed from Colley Gate, looking north towards Overend, with Cradley Heath beyond. (Nigel Brown)



Furlong Lane extended, down the hill from photo above. Talbot Street is just to the right beyond the lamppost, and Spring Lane is down past the next row of houses; at the corner of Spring and Talbot is the house where Joseph stayed while in Cradley.

Had a good rest. It is now 2PM. I have 3 meals & 2 glasses of Beer. I never see the Beat to them eating. They won't let me get hungry. I am very anxious for some Mail from

Home. Took a walk to see Alice. She is a nice girl and anxious to save a little for Old Age. In the Evening Ben and I went to see Joe Hingley.²⁰ I have not much use for him. After that we went to see Henry²¹ Wife and son Joe. The House they live in is swell & Joe is a fine looking fellow & his mother looks well. He has is a fine noble looking woman for his Wife. They are very comfortable. He has about an acre of ground and all kinds of Fruit from Apples to Gooseberries. Had a long talk. Joe has 2 children. The boy is studying in College for the Ministry and a fine looking girl about 19, the very image of Alice Hingley.

Tuesday, May 30

Took it easy today it is very warm & in the evening went to see your Cousin Myra. Very comfortable for a School Teacher & her Husband²² an Insurance Agent.

Wednesday, May 31

Wrote 3 letters to Maude & Chidson and Harry Coleman. Walked down Cradley to the Five Ways to the Station. Bought timetable went to Lottie's and stayed there till Evening. Made arrangements to go to Birmingham on the 12 and 13th and to Stratford on Avon on the 14th. Ride back and forth morning and evening. I forgot to tell you that I am having a suit of clothes also a Raincoat and this evening I went to try it on.

Thursday, June 1

Weather very warm. Took it easy today.

Friday, June 2

Took notion to go to Stourbridge. Had to walk a mile to _____.... Their parks are very conspicuous by their absence but the Town itself has improved very much. Have a car line from to Dudley. I should have said that yesterday I and your Cousin Joe went to see Dudley Castle which is about the same as when I left.

²⁰ Joseph Hingley's nephew, brother David Hingley's son.

²¹ Henry Hingley, Joseph's brother, died young at age 23 in 1872, leaving behind a son, Joseph (here, Joe) and his wife, Elizabeth, who was apparently pregnant with daughter Henrietta, who was to be born the next year.

²² Myra Head is a daughter of Timothy and Sarah Hingley Head. Her husband is Samuel Clift of Dudley.



Park Road, Cradley, part of the main A458 road running west-east from Stourbridge to Birmingham. It becomes Colley Gate at the top of the hill in view, then Windmill Hill, then Drew's Holloway, after which it is Stourbridge Road into Halesowen. (Nigel Brown).

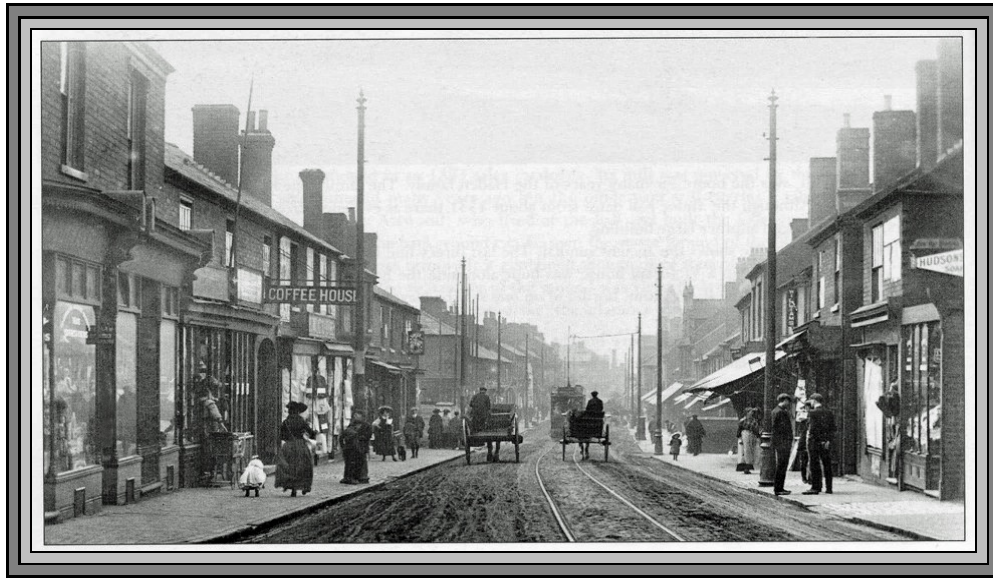


Windmill Hill, Cradley, looking up toward Colley Gate and Park Road beyond.

Saturday, June 3

Received letter from Helen which I shall keep with all the others. Went to Cradley Station to find out how I could meet her and answered telling her I would be at Victoria on the 19th at 9:40. Ben's Wife would have no denial but what she must have our photo taken. Went

to Cradley Heath.



Cradley Heath, c. 1911. Joseph makes many trips here, especially primarily to get a new suit of clothes made in the “American” fashion. Photo: courtesy of Nigel Brown.

Sunday, June 4

Received cards from Helen. Paid a visit to Joe Hingley and received a postcard from Chidson.

Monday, June 5

Wrote a letter to Chidson telling him to meet me at Victoria on the 19th at 9:40. Went to the Clent Hills with Ben and Wife. There was a good shower and today is a Beautiful day. Everything was very familiar and enjoyed ourselves very much.

Tuesday, June 6

Got up very tired but was soon over it. Strolled round Cradley Heath. Bought some underwear. Purchased a few photocards of some of the workers around; received a letter from May which was forwarded by your Aunt Helen tell me about Hawkins coming to England. Sent photo to Maude. Took in a picture show which was very good. Ben's Wife has an awful time with his girl. She is very funny but I think in time she will be all right. Received a letter

from May dated May 22 and in the evening one dated May 19.

Wednesday, June 7

The morning a letter from Maude and from one Chidson which I could not make out but shall not change my plans because of the impression I have in her letter indicating that they have no desire to cater to my plans. I am paddling my own canoe and shall not worry whether I see them or not. Board a train to Hunnington with Jack to see his Father's home which is a suburb near Halesowen. Made inquiry in regard the price of land and found that it ranges from \$500 to \$1000 an acre but is held by the Lords and is impossible to buy until the Land Laws are improved. I came back to 10PM got lunch and went to bed.

Thursday, June 8



Where Joseph took walks, including the **Clent Hills** in the background and **Fatherless Barn** in the foreground.

I know you will have a great time today with the Rose Festival and the neat three days if the is good. It is beautiful here. Went to Cradley Heath to try the coat on for he had to make another before I as suited and now I think I shall have satisfaction. Oh but the Business men are slow to catch on to new ideas. Bought a jar of blackberry jam and tried to get some Italian prunes but there is actually no fruit to be had of any sort. The weather is very warm and dry. It has been a good many years since they have had such a dry season. Last night we

went to a lecture of Free Trade and Mail was brought me. Photo of Maude and letter from Helen and postcard forwarded from Henry and Howard.

Friday, June 9

Sent letter to Helen thanking her invitation and to Mr. Mephram to meet me at Victoria or meet me at Helen's. Called on Lottie and while there word came that sister Hannah's House was on fire. Went to see. Found that she had attempted to light the gas and set the curtain on fire but had put it out without much damages.

Saturday, June 10

I am having trouble with my clothes. He has made the pants and vest all right but the



Colley Lane, Cradley, with the recently built School on the left, the centenary of which Dudley Council marked by demolishing it. The view today is completely different on both sides of this length of Colley Lane, and there are certainly no trees in the road. (Nigel Brown)

coat he is having the third trial. Think it will be all right. Start to Uffcombe²³ with Ben and Wife on Picnic. Freight cars very small about 6 x 12 about 400 of us are in the party. The grounds are large owned by Cadbury the chocolate maker. Cricket and other games. They

²³ "Uffculme," Kings Heath: owned by the Cadburys, of the renowned Bournville chocolate making family.

call the wooley aphis the Ana Blight. Got back to Snow Hill.²⁴ Walked around town 2 hours. It is a busy town on Saturdays. Arrived Home at 12 pm.

Sunday, June 11

Rest good. Received letter from May saying how anxious you are to hear from me but expect your mail are arriving all right and will know that I am getting along all

right; took dinner with Lottie. Took in the Brotherhood Meeting with Ben as a Member and they gave me quite a send off knowing that a Friend of one of their members from America spoke of me coming 7000 miles to visit. Asked to Address the Meeting (of course I did not) but I had a great talk with the boys afterward. They are a very likely Crowd and will accomplish good things through their Mr. P in very few years.

Monday June 12

Went to Birmingham strolled around to the Art Gallery nothing like what I see in New York. Took in the Theatre which was good with a few new stunts. Home at 11 PM supper and to Bed.

Tuesday, June 13

Slept fine! Cloudy weather sent letter to Maude Post Card to Henry, May, Howard, Esther & Noah. Just taking it easy. It is a bum place to get a suit of clothes on the American style, am having some trouble anyhow.

Wednesday June 14

Stratford on Avon today. Start from Cradley 9:30 arrive at Birmingham 10:00.



Birmingham Railroad Station: Snow Hill.

²⁴ In 1906 reconstruction of Snow Hill commenced, completed in 1912. The new station building was intended to compete with New Street, which at the time was a much grander building than it is today. The rebuilt station had a large booking hall with an arched glass roof. It contained lavish waiting rooms with oak bars. The bottom end of the station had fish platforms (Birmingham was and still is a major participant in the seafood industry) and goods storage. The station was twice as long as the current one.

Change to Stratford 10:35 arrive at 11:10. It did not take me long. Concluded to go to Knowle²⁵ and see Ann.²⁶ Arrived at Knowle about 3 PM and found I had to walk about 4 miles. I thought that was tough but when I met Ann and got to know the situation I found she was unable to put me up for the night. But she made me as comfortable as could considering the time I was there which about an hour and of course I had to walk back and very tired when I arrived at Knowle. Arrived at Birmingham about 9 PM. Tried to buy me a hat but the stores were closed. Arrived home about 10:30. Ben's wife stays up till I come back and gets supper and beer. I certainly enjoy their beer made by herself and is quite different from lager beer.

Thursday, June 15

Slept till 8:30 took a walk to Cradley Heath. Ordered coat and pants to out to Helen's. Had a nap at Lottie's. Bought basket strawberries and filled and filled the day with writing and reading.

Friday, June 16

Received letter from Helen and answered it with photo of myself and Ben's family. Walked towards evening. Started to rain. Spent the time and Home. ...Fairy Tales (as they called them) sent book of Stratford on Avon to Maude.

Saturday June 17

The first thing this morning Myra's daughter Lizzie came and reported that sister Hannah had died in the night and wished that I should act as one of the mourners and the plans that had been made between myself and Helen that she should meet me at Victoria. I concluded not to break the engagement. There was quite a thundershower today. The country around here will profit



**Hannah Hingley Horton, Joseph
Hingley's sister.**

²⁵ Knowle, Warwickshire.

²⁶ This is Ann Asbury, sister to Joseph Hingley's wife, Mary Edwards Asbury, apparently still living on the family farm between Knowle and Balsall on Fen End Road. The Asburys have a generational connection to Knowle and Balsall (the father, William Asbury, is once listed as owning 5 acres in the area). There is an *Asbury Road* in Balsall.

very much; but this is the first day that I could not go out since I arrived here. As I was the only brother here I thought I would stay another week and telegram to Helen. The circumstances ..for her to meet me the following Monday June 26. I expect she will be disappointed but think if for the best.

Sunday, June 18

I go to meet Joe Hingley and his son who is going to give a discourse at Stourbridge and a bright young man is. Took train to Cradley to the Mens Own.²⁷ Joe is very much took up with me and what I have to say in regard to Oregon. Come home and took supper and then went to Lottie's to make arrangements.

Monday, June 19

This is the day I expected to go to London. It rains today and they need it.

Tuesday, June 20

Lay around till it was time to go to the funeral. I was very quiet and simple ceremonies. Went off better than I thought it would owing to a will made in favor of the grandson. I tried to reconcile the children but shall leave them to work it out themselves.

Wednesday, June 21

Sent letter to Maude and am anxious to get one from Helen Horton. I thought of Noah and took a walk over Homer Hill down to Hell Hole²⁸ the place he started from to America. Found the house in about the same condition but surroundings were improved. The old slitting mill was demolished. The people are making great preparations for tomorrow. Very much like July 4 but with more enthusiasm. I tried to get my genealogy traced but as I could not go farther than 70 years gave it up. Bought a beautiful jet necklace for Maude.

Thursday, June 22

Received letter from Maude; every family on their flag waving in honor of their king and

²⁷ A men's club at Two Gates.

²⁸ The Salt Brook, originally saline, drained from the hillside below Two Gates, ran through Cradley Park Valley and the Hayes dingle, and formed the parish boundary between Oldswinford and Cradley. The brook is now culverted, meeting the Stour at the Saltbrook Inn in the area known locally as Hill Hole and also Hell Hole, because of the forge fires that burnt there day and night (Nigel Brown, *Cradley Links*).



Souvenir Postcard of the Coronation of **King George V** and **Queen Mary**,
June 22, 1911.

queen. Had a great time in Cradley Heath. Bon fires and fireworks and such a crowd but I noticed there was very little drunkenness.²⁹

Friday, June 23

Answered Helen's letter. Sat around till 2 o'clock for the Children's Party which would have been a grand success if the weather had been fine but it started to rain in Oregon

style and the children were led into the schools.

Saturday, June 24

Rain all day and very quiet.

Sunday, June 25

Still raining but went to a show. The folks wish that I was not going to London. They don't know how to do enough for me. Expect to have quite a time with the girl.

Monday, June 26

Start from Cradley 6:15. Ben's wife said not a word for her heart was full to see me going. But all the same I go. Arrive in Birmingham 7:10, change cars cars for London. Arrive Victoria 9:42. Found Helen. She certainly has changed I see her last. Walked around and see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Duke of Wellington Monument and George the 4th and several others. The Principal streets

²⁹ These are celebrations for the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. In a letter of June 13, 1911, to his daughter Maude, Joseph Hingley adds:

"Whether I shall see the Coronation or not I don't know. But I don't think I am so Nutty that I would do so as some expect to do have to stand on the curb for 24 hours at a stretch. I am not so favorably inclined towards Royalty."

Oxford and Regent, Piccadilly, and Buckingham Palace and Queen Victoria Monument which was beautiful. The streets were not crowded so much as New York or Chicago. No street cars in the city. Their conveyances consist of buses of which there are a great number. Took dinner and as it was raining took a bus to the station. Arrived at Bexhill 6 PM. Took supper and went to bed after a long talk with Alice and May³⁰ who came in from their work 8:50. Alice and May are two tall girls but not very strong. Alice is troubled very much with Chilblains.

Tuesday, June 27

After a good rest Alice and I took a walk to the Beach which was pretty and wishing not to take them from their duties I am trying to locate the roads so I can take in the scenery by myself. They live in the suburb of Bexhill. Shall have to walk 1 1/2 miles to the car which will take me to West Marina, St. Leonard's and Hastings.

Wednesday, June 28

I am now at St. Leonard's. It is a beautiful place. The Parade extends it probably two miles. The sea wall in fact is the beach and the hotels are within 400 feet of the ocean; after taking in the sea breezes inquired for the Y.M.C.A. in London as I wish to stay there a week on my way back. Received pocket list and Diary. Required of course. Everybody likes to talk to an American but they know little of Oregon. I get tired. Take car for home by way of Cooden³¹ 1 1/2 mile. Walk for exercise had good supper and talked a while. Went to bed.

Thursday June 29

Dizzy this morning but wrote two letters to Chidson and Ben. Walked to Bexhill to smell the sea breeze. Very few on shore for the wind was high. Walked by way of Cooden home.

Friday, June 30

Raining and I feel dizzy yet of all the places since I left Oregon this is the dullest. It is too early in the season but they seem content. They are certainly are humble and content with

³⁰ Joseph visits Bexhill-on-Sea to visit his deceased wife's relatives. Alice and May are Alice and May Coleman, daughters of Henry and Ellen Coleman, Mary Hingley's sister. Joseph visits his brother-in-law, Henry (Harry) Coleman and a Helen, too, whom we assume to be Helen Asbury, Henry's wife, Mary's sister.

³¹ An area of town in Bexhill, on the sea.

their lot. Alice grumbles some they do not know much of life and no energy to get out of the rut. I think Alice would do something if she had someone to give her a start; but what can they do with such a limited income. Took a side to Hastings and came across a man that was on the Campania. Went to picture show of the Coronation scenes.

Saturday July 1

Taking it easy. Went to blacksmith shop and wheelwright shop and around the Fields Home. It seems to me they are always eating here and they are surprised how little I eat. They treat me very much like an honored guest. Went round with Harry³² to see some of the farm crops but they are not taking very much pride.

Sunday, July 2

After breakfast took a walk to the seaside. Very pleasant. Back to dinner 1 o'clock. In the evening Helen and Harry and myself went to his sister who is on a farm about 2 ½ miles. A typical farm in England with some very fine stock. Treated me well and invited me to stay as long as I wanted.

Monday, July 3

Was woke up this morning by the folks to see the flying machines go by traveling from Calais to London. We had a fine view, very clear and bright in the afternoon. Alice took me a long walk. Practically all round Bexhill. It is a beautiful country but it does not appeal to me because a poor man has no chance to own the land. It is all held by some Lord or Duke and is rented. And came home very tired. Helen got me a cup of tea which done me good. Sent for a little Jamaca plum and enjoyed it very much.

Tuesday, July 4

I thought last night I would sleep fine but I can not sleep down here. I feel fine and think it is the sea air. Wrote a letter to Mrs. Franklin, Sargeant, and Ben and received a letter from Ben's wife, a very nice letter. Took a walk to Bexhill. Spent the day by the sea and it is a beautiful day. Tonight we see another air ship and they do some wonderful capers.

Wednesday, July 5

³² This is Henry Coleman (b. 1847), his brother-in-law, husband to Ellen, Mary Hingley's older sister.

Airships are all the excitement. Sent letter to Lottie, Maude, and May, Mrs Sergeant and Mrs. Beleham of London . You see my correspondence is extending very much.

Thursday, July 6

Took it easy till afternoon when May takes me a very pleasant walk by and through Bexhill where we spend the day and get home tired. But had a good supper with a pint of ale and thought I would sleep well but it seems I can not sleep here. It is very pretty at night. The sea is like sea of glass. Walk through the fields and talked with one and another concerning the wonders of America.

Friday, July 7

Slept a little better and took a walk to Bexhill City Park about five acres and laid out very pretty but the people are very conservative.

Saturday, July 8

Very little sleep. Went to barber shop had hair cut and shave and feel fine. Bought few bananas 16' a lb. All kinds of fruit is high. Rent is cheap, clothes are cheaper but no conveniences such as telephones. The roads are fine.

Sunday, July 9

I am now in St. Mark's Church Little Common's³³ which is 150 x 50 and is very pretty. What they call their church the school is near bye where the girls went to school. The lanes are lovely. I call them lover's lanes and wonder there is not more lovers in the evening. We all took a walk down to Gooden for the last time.

Monday, July 10

Slept fairly good. Rose at 5 o'clock and at 6 started to Bexhill but the hardest part of the journey is the parting with friends. You just stay long enough to get acquainted and then have to leave. But the best of friends have to part for I thought when I left the folks that it was the turning around towards Home. But I had a pleasant ride to Victoria and then found Chidson's with much trouble. Took dinner with them and stayed about three hours. Chidson

³³ An area of Bexhill just above Gooden.

took me round the city and secured Room at the Abbey Hotel. I think London is certainly a busy city and he went home. Took in the Coliseum Theatre. Got to bed 11:30.

Tuesday, July 11

The noise was too much for me last night so change rooms and after breakfast from Westminster I take the Tube RR for 1 pence. I go down to Kew Gardens. It is a park of about 288 acres beautifully laid out with some of the finest trees you ever see.

Afterword

Here the Diary ends, although Joseph Hingley would not leave for home until the first of September, 1911. If he continued to keep writing his diary in another volume, we do not know. As far as we can determine, he returned to Cradley from his trip to Bexhill-on-Sea for the balance of his stay, finally arriving in New York aboard the *RMS Lusitania* (of World War I infamy) on September 2, 1911.

